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new *EXCALIBUR*



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DIRECT EDITION

Previously in NEW EXCALIBUR:

In the aftermath of M-DAY, five disparate heroes are brought together in London: CAPTAIN BRITAIN, JUGGERNAUT, NOCTURNE, DAZZLER and SAGE. Together with government agent PETE WISDOM (an agent of MI-13, the division of Her Majesty's Intelligence Service devoted to the supernatural), they stand as a symbol of might in the service of right.

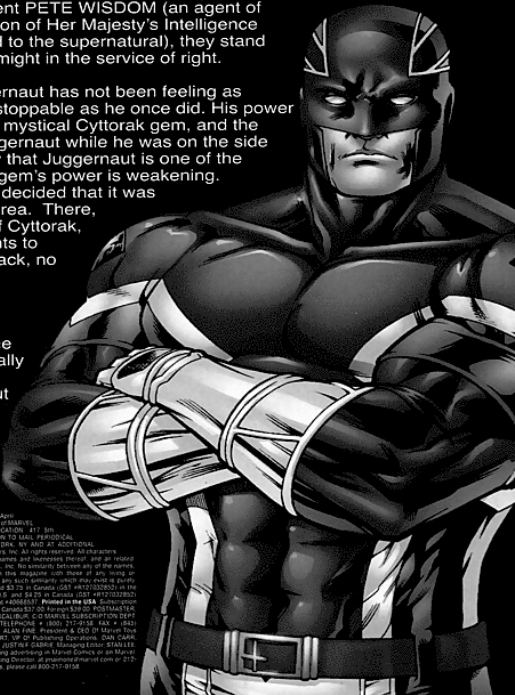
Recently, Juggernaut has not been feeling as strong or as unstoppable as he once did. His power comes from the mystical Cyttorak gem, and the gem fueled Juggernaut while he was on the side of evil. But now that Juggernaut is one of the good guys, the gem's power is weakening. So, Juggernaut decided that it was time to go to Korea. There, at the Temple of Cyttorak, Juggernaut wants to get his power back, no matter the cost.

But once there, Juggernaut discovers that he was never actually meant to be the Juggernaut...but instead it was his brother, CHARLES XAVIER!

NEW EXCALIBUR US\$5

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NOT
APOCALYPSE.

NOT THE
SHADOW
KING.

NOT
SINISTER.

NOT
THE BROOD
OR THE
BROTHERHOOD
OR THE
HELLFIRE
CLUB.



BUT
YOU.

I ASK
YOU WHY,
CAIN
MARKO...

...WHY
YOU?



OF ALL THE ENEMIES XAVIER HAD IN THIS WORLD, OF ALL THE TERRIBLE THREATS HE AND HIS X-MEN HAVE FACED... HE DEEMED YOU THE MOST DANGEROUS?

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO NEEDED HIS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION UPON BECOMING ONSLAUGHT?

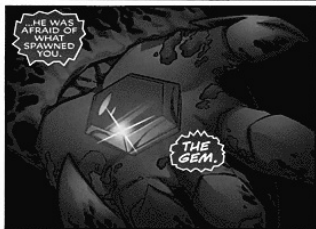


I'LL TELL YOU WHY...

HE WAS AFRAID OF YOU.



OR TO BE MORE PRECISE...



HE WAS AFRAID OF WHAT SPAWNED YOU.

THE GEM.



HE KNEW, YOU SEE.

KNEW THAT THE GEM-- WHICH HE WAS STILL CALLED TO EVEN THEN-- WAS INTENDED FOR HIM ALL ALONG.



THAT HE, CHARLES XAVIER, WAS MY ORIGINAL CHOICE TO BECOME MY JUGGERNAUT.



AFTER ALL,
WASN'T HE THE
MOST POWERFUL
TELEPATH ON
EARTH?





THAT ANGER
MADE YOU MY
PERFECT
AGENT OF
DESTRUCTION.

IT'S A TREMENDOUS
THING, **POWER**.
HAVING THE ABILITY
TO MOVE MOUNTAINS,
TO CRUSH YOUR
ENEMIES, TO HAVE
OTHERS FEAR
YOU. IT CAN BE
ADDICTING...



WHICH
I'M SURE
YOU CAN
SURELY
ATTEST
TO.

I'M SORRY
CAN, BUT
YOUR
DISLOYALTY
HAS LEFT ME
NO OTHER
CHOICE...



...BUT TO SEEK
OUT YOUR
REPLACEMENT.





HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND CAIN AND FACE WHATEVER IT IS WE'LL HAVE TO FACE...

WHEN NO ONE IS EVEN TALKING TO EACH OTHER?



I FIND IT QUITE NICE, ACTUALLY. TRANQUIL.

ALLOWS ME TO CONCENTRATE A BIT BETTER.



SIGH... IS ANYONE SANE IN THIS GROUP?

SAYS THE MAN WHO'S ADDICTED TO A SWORD.



WELL, OKAY. YOU'VE GOT ME THERE, I GUESS.



BESIDES, MR. WHITMAN, WE'LL ALL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO ACT LIKE A TEAM IN...

...OH, I'D SAY ABOUT 14.6 SECONDS.

WHAT ARE YOU--



OH...

WE'VE BEEN
FOLLOWED.

I THINK YOU
WERE OFF BY
A SECOND
OR TWO.

WELL, PERHAPS IF A CERTAIN SOMEONE
WASN'T TALKING MY EAR OFF, WHINING
ABOUT TEAM MORALE...

OH, JUST
SHUT UP AND
FIGHT.







YES, CAIN!



THERE'S THE JUGGERNAUT
I KNOW!



LET ME
GUESS...
AGENTS OF
CYTTORAK?

GUARDIANS OF
HIS TEMPLE, MORE THAN
LIKELY. AND I'LL WAGER
THEY'RE PART OF THE REASON
FOR THAT LITTLE GO-
AROUND YOU PEOPLE
HAD EARLIER.

I HAVE
REASON TO
BELIEVE CYTTORAK
AND HIS MINIONS
HAVE THE ABILITY TO
BRING **NEGATIVE**
THOUGHTS AND
EMOTIONS TO THE
FOREFRONT.

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY
HAD ALL THAT FAR TO GO TO
HAVE ME TAKE A SWING
AT BRADDO--

--HUH?

TRYING
TO SNEAK
UP ON A
BLOKE, EH,
MATE?

BETTER
THAN YOU
HAVE
TRIED.









THAT'S
IT--KILL
HIM!



REGAIN
WHAT YOU
ONCE
WERE!



WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR?!



YES,
CAIN...

WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR?

WHAT
THE
BLOODY
HELL IS
GOING ON
HERE?

AH, EXCALIBUR--
SO GOOD OF YOU
TO COME. I'M AFRAID
OUR MUTUAL FRIEND
MR. MARKO APPEARS TO
BE QUITE SPEECHLESS
AT THE MOMENT.
SO ALLOW ME TO
BRING YOU UP
TO SPEED.

AND PERHAPS
ENLIGHTEN YOU
ON WHAT IT TRULY
MEANS TO BE A
JUGGERNAUT.



CAIN HAD PREDECESSORS TO THE JUGGERNAUT MANTLE YOU SEE.

ONE SUCH INDIVIDUAL WAS JIN TAIKO.

JIN HAD SERVED ME WELL FOR DECADES. REGRETTABLY, THERE CAME A DAY WHEN HE DID NOT.



IT WAS ON THAT DAY I DID WHAT I OFTEN DO WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A DISLOYAL JUGGERNAUT.

I CHOSE TO HAVE HIM REPLACED.



CAIN MARKO HAD TOUCHED THE GEM OF CYTTORAK, WHICH GAVE HIM THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE FOR THE JUGGERNAUT MANTLE.

TO ACTUALLY BECOME THE JUGGERNAUT, HOWEVER...



THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.

CRACK



I ADMIT, IT IS NOT AN EASY TASK TO BE MY JUGGERNAUT. I AM A DEMANDING MASTER, REQUIRING MY NAME TO BE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THROUGH ENDLESS VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION.

I AM ALSO NOT WITHOUT MY JEALOUSIES.

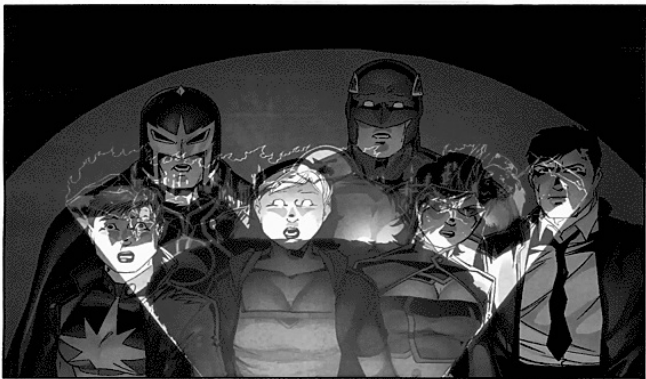


SO WHEN TAIKO'S VILLAGE BEGAN TO WORSHIP ANOTHER IN MY STEAD, I DEMANDED THE VILLAGE BE RAZED TO THE GROUND, AND FOR EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE TO BE UTTERLY ANNIHILATED.

TAIKO'S REFUSAL BECAME THE SOURCE OF OUR DISASSOCIATION.



FORTUNATELY, HIS REPLACEMENT HAD NO SUCH RESERVATIONS.





HEY.

HEY.



PRETTY HORRIBLE, HUH?

YEAH.

BUT YOU'RE NOT THAT PERSON ANYMORE.

DOES THAT REALLY MATTER?

SURE IT DOES. I'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW YOU, CAIN. I BELIEVE YOU'RE REALLY TRYING TO BE A BETTER PERSON NOW, TRYING WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT TO PUT YOUR PAST BEHIND YOU. I...



LOOK, KID, I APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT. I REALLY DO.

BUT NOW MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST TIME TO SORT OUT THIS THING BETWEEN US -- WHATEVER THIS THING IS... YA KNOW?



JERK.



TWO DAYS LATER.

GEEZ, I'M SORRY. DIDN'T KNOW ANYBODY'D BE OUT HERE--

DIDN'T THINK YOU'D FIND ME OUT HERE SMOKING. IS WHAT YOU MEAN.

COME ON, MATE. MY SMOKING IS THE WORST-KEPT SECRET AROUND.

BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. YOU CAN BE MY WITNESS.

THIS IS MY LAST CIGARETTE EVER.

I'VE SEEN A LOT WHEN IT COMES TO THIS TEAM LATELY-- ME AND MY SMOKES, YOU WITH YOUR GEM. ALI WITH HER FAME... EVEN THAT WHITMAN TOSSEY AND HIS BLADE.

WE'RE ALL A BUNCH OF DIRTY LITTLE ADDICTS. NOW AIN'T WE?

BUT NOT ME. NO, SIR. THIS ROT'S NOT GOING TO GET THE BEST OF ME.

MY MUM RAISED ME A TAD TOUGHER THAN THAT.

GOOD FOR YOU, PETE.

RIGHT-O. BUT I THINK YOU REALLY COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT MY SMOKING HABITS RIGHT NOW.

I THINK YOU'RE MORE INTERESTED IN THAT LITTLE MEETING WE JUST HAD.



FOR STARTERS,
WE ALL HAD TO
CLEAR THE AIR A
LITTLE BIT.

HEARD
YOU ALL
DID A LITTLE
OF THAT
BACK IN
KOREA.

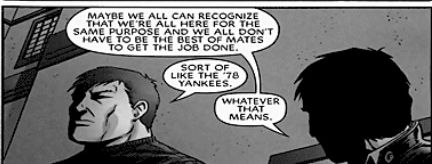
A LITTLE.
BUT THIS TIME,
IT WAS A TAD
MORE
CIVILIZED.



ME AND BRIAN?
ME AND HIM AIN'T
NEVER GONNA BE
"BUDDIES." AS YOU
YANKES SAY.

BUT I'M NOT GOING
TO SNEAK IN HIS ROOM
TONIGHT AND SLIT HIS
THROAT NEITHER.

MUCH AS
I MAY WANT
TO.



MAYBE WE ALL CAN RECOGNIZE
THAT WE'RE ALL HERE FOR THE
SAME PURPOSE AND WE ALL DON'T
HAVE TO BE THE BEST OF MATES
TO GET THE JOB DONE.

SORT OF
LIKE THE '78
YANKES.

WHATEVER
THAT
MEANS.



THE BOTTOM LINE
IS, WHILE WE'RE ALL
TRYING TO HELP
MUTANTS POST-
M-DAY...

NOBODY
SAID WE
CAN'T HELP
OURSELVES
ALONG THE
WAY.



BUT
THAT'S NOT
IT... IS IT? CAN'T
FIGURE ALL THAT
"KUMBAYA" TALK
INCLUDED
ME.

WELL...



...AFTER WHAT SOME
OF THE OTHER MEMBERS
SAW, WITH THE THINGS
YOU DID, EVEN THOUGH
YOU SAID YOU LEFT THE
GEM BEHIND...

...LET'S JUST
SAY THERE'S
SOMEWHAT OF
A TRUST ISSUE
HERE.



AND SOME
AWKWARDNESS.
AND MAYBE A
LITTLE ANGER.

OK,
MAYBE A
LOT OF
ANGER.

JUST
GIVE IT
TO ME
STRAIGHT,
PETE.



AM
I OFF THE
TEAM?



WELL,
THERE
WAS SOME
TALK OF A
VOTE...

NO NEED
FOR THAT. MAN'S
GOTTA BE BLIND NOT
TO SEE THE WRITIN'
ON THE WALL.

I'LL HAVE
MY STUFF
OUTTA HERE BY
MORNIN'.



JUMP TO
CONCLUSIONS
MUCH, MATE?
I SAID THERE
WAS TALK...BUT
THAT'S AS FAR
AS IT GOT.

I SAW
TO
THAT.

COME
AGAIN?



HERE'S
THE THING...
WE CAN ALL
GO BACK AND
FORTH ABOUT
WHO'S IN
CHARGE AND
WHO'S NOT,
BUT THE
REALITY IS, THE
GUY WHO PAYS
THE BILLS GETS
THE ONLY
VOTE THAT
COUNTS.

OTHERWISE,
HE JUST TAKES
HIS BALL AND
GOES HOME.



THEY UNDERSTOOD. IT MAY
BE A BIT BUMPY AT FIRST, BUT
WE'LL WORK THINGS OUT--HAPPY
FAMILY THAT WE ARE.

I...I DON'T
GET IT. WE AIN'T
EXACTLY CLOSE,
PETE...WHY WOULD
YA GO TO BAT FER
ME LIKE THIS?

WELL...



...LET'S JUST SAY
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE
TO DO SOME THINGS IN
YOUR PAST YOU AIN'T
TOO PROUD OF.

HORRIBLE
THINGS,
EVEN.



DON'T
LET ME
DOWN,
CAIN.



I WOULDN'T WANT
YOU TO HAVE TO
EXPERIENCE WHAT SOME
OF THOSE HORRIBLE
THINGS ARE LIKE
FIRSTHAND.



SO, I GUESS ALL OUR INFIGHTING AND HALF OUR MEMBERS BEING MURDERERS MADE YOUR DECISION QUITE A BIT EASIER, EH?

NAH. IF ANYTHING, IT MADE ME WANT TO JOIN YOU GUYS MORE.

YOU KNOW I LIKE A CHALLENGE.



I MEAN...WHO KNOWS, WITH ALL YOUR TALK ABOUT WHO'S LEADER AND WHO'S NOT, MAYBE I WAS ACTUALLY THE GUY WHO COULD GET YOU GUYS STRAIGHTENED UP.

WE CERTAINLY COULD DO WORSE.



ALL JOKING ASIDE, THE REAL REASON FOR ME NOT JOINING?

THIS.

THIS IS NOT THE EBONY BLADE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



IT'S SOMETHING I'VE COME TO REALIZE ONLY RECENTLY. SOMEHOW, IN SOME WAY, THE SWORD I TOUCHED IN CAMELOT AND THIS ONE ARE NOT THE SAME.



AND I NEED TO FIND OUT WHY THAT IS. NOT TO MENTION HOW IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE.

I CAN ROUND UP THE GANG AND WE CAN BE READY TO ROLL IN NO--

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS, PAL. THIS IS REALLY SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO ON MY OWN.



BUT SAY GOODBYE TO EVERYONE FOR ME.

AND GIVE MY BEST TO MEGGAN, WHEN YOU SEE HER.

DANE, YOU KNOW I'M NOT ABLE TO--

YOU WILL BE.



IF ANYONE CAN DO WHATEVER NEEDS DOING, IT'S YOU.



UNREDEEMED

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